

Message Text

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R 270806Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1386

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8791

NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR PINT CH

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN COMMENTS ON PRC PERSONALITIES

1. IN THE COURSE OF A JULY 27 CONVERSATION WITH TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN, HE RELATED SOME DETAILS ON PERSONALITIES IN THE STATE COUNCIL AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO, ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY UNKNOWN, APPEAR TO BE CLOSE TO THE CENTER OF THE PRC DECISION MAKING APPARATUS. WE ARE THEREFORE REPORTING THEM EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE INFORMATION MAY ALREADY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH OTHER REPORTING.

2. LO CH'ING-CH'ANG (5012/7230/7022) DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE STATE COUNCIL-DURING YENAN DAYS LO WAS A "LITTLE RED SOLIDER" SERVING CHOU EN-LAI PERSONALLY. HE HAS A MAJOR COORDINATING FUNCTION AND WORKS IN THE CHUNG NAN HAI. HE
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WAS THE COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN MAO AND CHOU WHILE THE

LATTER WAS STILL ALIVE. NOTHING THAT FEI SAID SUGGESTED THAT LO'S POSITION HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF THE PREMIER.

3. T'UNG HSIAO-P'ENG (4547/1420/7720) LEADING MEMBER UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT-LIKE LO, T'UNG WAS A "LITTLE RED SOLIDER" AT YENAN, BUT HE WORKED DIRECTLY FOR MAO TSE-TUNG. FEI DESCRIBED THE UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT UNDER THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, INVOLVING RESPONSIBILITIES NOT ONLY FOR MATTERS RELATED TO TAIWAN, BUT ALSO RELATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS AND MINORITY GROUPS AS WELL AS MINORITY PARTIES IN CHINA. THE UNITED FRON WORK DEPARTMENT IS NOW FUNCTIONING AS A "SMALL GROUP" HEADED BY A TRIUMVIRATE WHICH INCLUDES T'UNG AND ANOTHER INPORT FIGURE, LI CHIN-TE (2621/6855/1795). FE SAID THE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REACH A DECISION AS TO WHO SHOULD BE DIRECTOR AND WHO DEUPUTY DIRECTOR BETWEEN T'UNG AND LI, SUGGESTING THAT THERE MAY BE SOMETHING OF A STRUGGLE OVER CONTROL OF THE UNITED FRON WORK DEPARTMENT.

4. CHU TEH-FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD, FEI STATED THAT NPC CHAIRMAN CHU TEH DIED OF PNEUMONIA. HE COMMENTED THAT FOREIGN OBSERVORS'S REFERENCES TO CHU'S POSITION AS CEREMONIAL AND WITHOUT REAL POWER WERE INCORRECT. CHU, HE SAID, HAD IMMENSE NATIONAL PRESTIGE AND WAS, LIKE CHOU EN-LAI, IN MANY WAYS IRREPLACEABLE.
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